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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

13 May 1986

Mr. Donald C. Latham Chairman, National Telecommunications and Information Systems Security Committee Washington, D.C. 20301

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Dear Mr. Latham:

In assigning this task to I discussed with him the broad parameters of the issues involved. However, I gave him no guidance with respect to specific proposals either then or in subsequent discussions of his efforts. Although the report has not been put into final draft, I can assure you that we have no intent to propose modifications of NSDD 145.

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I am sure you appreciate that the future success of computer and telecommunications security will depend largely on a judicious blend of many countermeasure disciplines. I anticipate that the new SIG arrangements and your chairmanship of one of the two countermeasures IGs will result in close cooperation between the NTISSC and the rest of the Community in these critical areas. What we are seeking is a formula, acceptable to all, for a national-level policy structure that will be cognizant of and can assure that we have coordinated, integrated countermeasures to the multidisciplinary threat. Yet, the structure will not directly interfere with individual agency, committee, or other element prerogatives.

William√J. Casey

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C/CCIS/ICS (23 April 1986)

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NTISSC NATICINAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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Mr. William J. Casey Director, Central Intelligence Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Casey: 1010

It has been brought to my attention that there is an effort currently under way by which recommends to the Congress the realignment of the National Telecommunications and Information Systems Security Committee (NTISSC). This realignment would result in the disestablishment of the national structure formed by the President's directive (NSDD 145). I understand the recommendations will require that national issues developed by the NTISSC be submitted to the Senior Interagency Group (Intelligence) through the Interagency Group on Countermeasures. Such recommendations are inimical to the efforts of the NTISSC and seriously undermine the process that assures full participation and cooperation within the Executive Branch and between the Government and the private sector. We have made considerable headway toward meeting the President's objectives. Any action to disestablish or redirect NSDD 145 efforts is contrary to those goals and the President's continuing commitments in this area:

During the preparation of NSDD 145, there were long discussions and much deliberation given within the Administration on the development of the process, responsibilities, and structure. I do not believe exhuming these topics or changing the national structure established by NSDD 145 will serve any purpose. I request your assistance in reaffirming the commitment to the precepts of the President's directive.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Latham Chairman

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